

DEPARTMENT NEWS.

STATE DEPARTMENT.

Notice to Mariners.—The following notice to mariners has been received from R. B. Campbell, esq., United States consul at London:

The Court of Directors of the East India Company have lately received from the government of Bengal the following notification, which is published for general information:

Houses of Refuge at the Entrance of the Malacca for Shipwrecked Mariners.—The houses of refuge are numbered in succession to those already erected on the sea-face of the Sunderbunds, and are situated as follows:

No. 4, painted white.—Erected on the southeast part of Dalmuir's island, at the eastern entrance of the Malacca river, on a sandy patch, about five feet above high-water mark, and about 100 feet in shore, distinguishable by a white flag from a long spar and bamboo, which have been put up close alongside of the house, visible considerably above the surrounding trees.

No. 5, painted white.—This house is erected on Banga-dome island, about seven miles eastward of No. 4. It stands on the southeast part of the island, above a small sandy beach, about 100 feet from high-water mark. A long spar and bamboo with a flag have been put up alongside, and may be seen considerably above the trees.

In each house there is a supply of water and biscuit, a compass and pocket, a letter of instructions, and a chart of the Sunderbunds.

By order of the off'g superintendent of marine.
Published by order of the court of directors of the East India House, May 26, 1857.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Decisions.—The following decisions have recently been made by the Secretary of the Treasury:

August 12, 1857.

Sir: An appeal has been taken by Mr. George D. Parish, of Philadelphia, from the decision of the collector of that port, under schedule C of the tariff act of 24 March, 1857, as to "manufactures composed wholly of cotton, which are bleached, printed, painted, or dyed."

The collector assessed the duties upon these several fabrics at 24 per cent., under schedule C of the tariff act of 24 March, 1857, as to "manufactures composed wholly of cotton, which are bleached, printed, painted, or dyed."

The importer contends that duty should be assessed at the rate of 15 per cent., as "velvet in the piece, composed wholly of cotton," under schedule E of that tariff.

The fabrics in question do not appear to be now, nor ever have been, known in commerce as "velvet velours," nor are they specifically designated, under their commercial names, in any schedule of the tariff. Being composed wholly of cotton, and dyed, they fall within schedule C of the tariff of 1857, as "manufactures composed wholly of cotton, which are bleached, printed, painted, or dyed."

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THE GREAT BARBECUE AT ASHLAND.

The Louisville Courier of last Friday's issue contains a full and glowing report of the great barbecue given at Ashland, Kentucky, on the 12th, by Hon. J. B. Clay. In calling attention to the report, the Courier observes:

"A more lovely and beautiful spot for the festivities than the woods of Ashland could not have been found under the broad canopy of heaven, and a more fitting place could not have been selected where old-line whigs and democrats were thrown open to the triumphant success of constitutional principles, and joint hands in pledging united and earnest co-operation in securing to themselves and their posterity the priceless blessings and privileges we enjoy."

"There was an immense concourse of gentlemen and ladies in attendance—the number present being variously estimated at from six to eight thousand—many eminent and distinguished gentlemen from this and other States being of the number. There were speaking and dancing and eating enough to satisfy the inclinations and tastes of all. The munificent hospitality of the proprietor of Ashland was the theme of admiration. His beautiful grounds and grounds were thrown open to his visitors, and all were made at once to feel themselves at home. The dinner was sumptuous and the supply profusely abundant. Burgoo that would have tempted the palate of the veriest epicure, and fat lards and delicious mutton, and those 'best broths of Ashland,' were served up in a style of unsurpassable excellence."

"The speaking was most excellent. We have never on any similar occasion heard so good. The orators were all exceedingly happy. They were each introduced to the assembly by Hon. John C. Breckinridge, the Vice President of the United States, in his own inimitable manner. The speeches were all of exactly the right length, and they were all given with intense delight to the thousands of eager listeners. Breckinridge, Clay, Anderson, Willard, Hammond, Preston, Holt, Talbot, Robinson, Porter, Wickliffe, and Lindley all made telling speeches."

"The weather was fine, and everything passed off as it became most auspicious. It was an era of good feeling between old whigs and democrats, who were working shoulder to shoulder for the welfare and glory of their country, which it did the patriot's heart good to see. The Ashland barbecue will long be remembered with pleasure by those who participated in it, and the good that will result from it cannot fail to be yet made manifest."

GENERAL SUMMARY.

TEA TASTING.—A New York writer gives the following particulars of the effects of "tea tasting," and sampling upon the constitution of those engaged in the business:

"The death of a famous tea broker in this city lately calls to mind the curious nature of his business. I wonder if any of your readers at the West know that their fastidiousness in the choice of the herb which cheers, but not intoxicates, is the cause of the establishment of a profession, and that there is an art in the selection of a man as the continued practice of opium eating. The success of a tea broker or taster depends upon the trained accuracy of his nose and palate, his experience in the wants of American market, and a keen business tact. If he has those qualities in high cultivation, he may make from \$20,000 to \$40,000 per annum while he lives, and the discretion of the lungs. He overhauls a cargo of tea, classifies it, and determines the value of each sort. In doing this, he first looks at the color of the leaf and the general cleanliness of it. He next takes a quantity of the herb in his hand, and breathing his warm breath upon it, he sniffs up the fragrance. In doing this, he draws into his lungs a quantity of irritating and stimulating dust, which is by no means wholesome. Then sitting down at the table in his office, on which is a long row of little porcelain cups and a pot of hot water, he 'draws' the tea and tastes the infusion. In this way he classifies the different sorts to the minutest shade, makes the different prices, and is then ready to compare his work with the invoice. The skill of these tasters is fairly marvellous, but the effect of the business on their health is, as I have said, ruinous. At the end of a hard day's work they feel as sick and fatigued and cross as a hysteric old maid."

The British coinage for the year 1856 was 4,806,159 sovereigns, 2,391,097 half sovereigns, 2,201,760 florins, 3,168,000 shillings, 7,729,920 six-pences, 55,040 groats, 4,158 farthings, 1,918,293 three-pences, 4,720 half-pences, and 7,920 silver pence. The total value of the gold coin last year was \$6,002,114, and that of the silver coin \$462,528—the real cost or value of the metal having been \$424,609. The copper coinage of 1856 included 1,212,288 pence, 1,942,080 half pence, 1,771,392 farthings, and 913,920 half farthings—making a total value of \$143,717. The purchase value of the copper was only \$73,324. Last year 234,200,371 ounces of silver coin was purchased for recoinage, at a nominal value of \$677,500, and the mint value at 5s. 6d. an ounce, being \$692,446, it follows that the loss by recoinage was \$75,104.

The following is the statement of the immigration to Canada up to the 7th of August, the present year:

Whence. 1856. 1857. Increase.

England.....6,746 10,206 3,460

Ireland.....1,243 1,427 184

Scotland.....1,656 2,405 749

Germany.....4,105 4,585 480

Norway and Sweden.....2,611 6,034 3,423

Lower Provinces.....124 16

18,485 24,938 8,561

Besides the immigrants already arrived, official notice has been received of 2,122 others now on their way.

The train on the St. Louis, Alton, and Chicago road (says the St. Louis Republican) was fifty minutes behind in leaving Alton, Monday last. The run was made to Springfield, 72 miles, in two hours and ten minutes, including twelve stoppages. This is a speed of well-nigh forty miles per hour sustained the entire distance. The condition of the road admits of such speed with perfect safety. We know of no road in the West with a smoother track, or where the grades are run with greater punctuality.

A singularly marked case, of Oregon growth, most ingeniously carried with a penknife, is to be presented to President Buchanan by several of the citizens of Corvallis, Oregon Territory. It is mounted with appropriate inscriptions, and around the body of the stick is entwined a black venomous serpent, designed to represent the republicanism party. It is in the shape of a penknife, the handle being a piece of wood, and the blade a piece of metal, and is intended to be a hand, supposed to be that of Mr. Buchanan.

John B. Gough, the temperance apostle, has been warmly greeted by the friends of temperance in England. At a meeting held in Queen's Hall, Liverpool, he was welcomed, on behalf of the temperance national league, by Mr. Tweedle: the Scottish temperance league, through Mr. McNeill, presented an address of welcome, as also did Mr. Matheson, secretary of the Liverpool temperance league, in behalf of that body. Mr. Gough, after thanking them for their kind reception, addressed the meeting in an interesting speech, occupying over two hours.

It was recently decided in Buffalo, before Justice Davis, that railroad companies are bound to keep ticket offices open at places where they are established one hour before the departure of passenger trains; and a passenger who had paid five cents extra in the ticket office, and the ticket office not having been open to enable him to purchase one, recovered the five cents and \$50 in addition.

The physicians in Albany, seventy-five in number, have resolved to attend no more coroners' inquests, for the reason that the supervisors refuse to pay their bills. Consequently, when a coroner's jury was sitting on a dead body, lately they were unable to tell what to hang them by, or a case of infanticide, for the lack of that knowledge which physicians could alone furnish.

The Tallahassee Floridian of the 8th inst. says that, "judging from all the information it has with reference to the crops in that State, the conclusion is warrantable that a sufficiency of corn will be made for home consumption, with nearly, if not quite, an average production of cotton."

Blackwood, who so brutally murdered Wright at New Orleans, has waived an examination, and allowed himself to be committed to answer. It appears he consented to this to escape being lynched by the excited populace, who surrounded the prison, and threatened to hang him the spot had he been brought out for an examination.

The Montreal Advertiser announces the death of Mr. Benjamin Pickard, at Paris, Canada, at the age of 101 years. He was the last survivor of the famous corps of Butler's Rangers, in which he served as a drummer through the American revolutionary war.

The Baptists of South Carolina, in State convention at Greenwood, a few days ago, adopted the report of a committee recommending a suspension of all relations or official intercourse with the "American Tract Society" until the society shall reverse their objectionable action.

The steamer Canada brings intelligence of the death of Labache, the great bass singer.

LOCAL NEWS.

THE PAINTING IN THE ROTUNDA.—Four of these paintings are the work of Colonel Trumbull, a soldier and artist of revolutionary times—to wit: "The Declaration of Independence," "The Surrender of General Burgoyne," "The Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown," and "The Resignation of General Washington at Annapolis," December 23, 1783. In the execution of the first of these, Col. Trumbull devoted himself with unflinching zeal and industry, travelling from one part of the Union to another to collect the original material for the great design, it being his ambition to transmit to future generations a true representation of the great actors in the memorable scene. "The Surrender of General Burgoyne, 1777," to General Gates, of the American army, at Saratoga. New interest will be added in the contemplation of this picture when it is remembered that it contains likenesses from life of Generals Gates, Burgoyne, Stark, Morgan, Schuyler, Putnam, and many other distinguished officers; and that Burgoyne was "the intimate friend and companion of Burke, Fox, and Sheridan; was himself an accomplished scholar and wit, backing in the sunlight of favor, and had but a few months before promissed his sovereign that he would speedily crush the rebels, and restore peace to his revolted colonies—nay, more: that he was under a promise to meet Clinton at Albany, but that when he reached that city a prisoner, his friends had turned back from the highlands, having been unable, even with the treachery of Arnold, to approach nearer to Albany. "The Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown," represents the closing scene of the great revolutionary drama. Though Washington was present, he yielded to Gen. Lincoln the honor of receiving the sword and the surrender of the conquered leader of the enemy. The picture of "The Resignation of Washington" contains, among other persons, the family of Washington, and Charles Carroll and his two daughters. The "Daytime of Pocahontas" was designed and executed by Chapman to do the role of the Indian girl, who was the daughter of the Mississippi by De Soto. It is by Powell. The design and composition of this painting has been somewhat severely criticized; at the same time its execution is generally acknowledged to be more than excellent; for instance, it is objected that while two Indian women, gracefully reclining on one side of the picture, seem perfectly comfortable without any clothing, a man on the opposite side is clad with a huge buffalo robe. The "Landing of Columbus" is by Vanderlye, and is peculiarly interesting as being the opening scene of American history. The "Departure of the Pilgrim Fathers in the May Flower" is by Wier, and excites universal admiration. A writer says of this picture: "We have stood for hours before it, and then returned again and again, each time to see new beauties, and to gaze upon that being of surpassing loveliness, the wife of Miles Standish. It is the very ideal of Saxon beauty—the eyes clear, deep, fearless, as a woman's eyes may be, yet devotional and confiding; they are turned upward, speaking the woman's trust in her husband and the soul's faith in his God. There is no Grecian outline in the features—no angelic perfection in the face; it is simply the countenance of a woman beaming with intelligence and love. Miles Standish has features and form which challenge admiration, while the pale, sickly boy, going forth on the tempestuous ocean, touches deeply our pity and sympathy. Nor must we forget the man of God, who, from the Bible, is finding sweet words of hope and consolation for this brave band, who, for conscience sake, are about to seek a home in a far-off and inhospitable country, where faith and religion may dwell together in union, without fear or restraint."

THE CITY COUNCIL YESTERDAY.—Board of Aldermen.—A communication was received from the Mayor informing the board that he had signed, on the 11th instant, "An act to pay certain expenses," joint resolutions of respect to the memory of John T. Towers, and "An act for the relief of the estate of Wm. T. Wheat."

Bills for the relief of John W. Baden, for the relief of Sarah A. Graves, for the remission of a fine imposed on William P. Cannon for violating the ordinance relating to the discharge of fire-arms, and a bill for the relief of W. J. C. Duhamel and John H. Wise, were severally read the third time and passed.

The board also passed a joint resolution in relation to the opening of Sixth street through the public grounds.

Common Council.—A communication was received from the Mayor announcing that he had signed a number of bills, principally for grading and graveling certain streets.

The bill of the board of aldermen for enlarging the gutter on Fourteenth street west, (west side), from I to M street, was passed with an amendment.

A resolution was introduced by Mr. Fisher in relation to insurance agencies, and referred to a special committee, consisting of Messrs. Fisher, Brown, and Floyd.

A bill for the relief of Joseph A. Gill and Henry Yeatman was also passed with an amendment.

Bills making an appropriation for a flood-gate across L street south, on the west side of Seventh street; for grading and graveling F street north, between Tenth and Fourteenth streets; for relaying the gutter, &c., on the west side of square 258; for the relief of Noble Tuck, for the taking up and relaying of the gutters on Seventh street east, between E and L streets south; for taking up and relaying the gutter on the east side of Tenth street; for the grading of H street north, between Fourteenth street and New Jersey avenue; for granting permission for the enlargement of the wharves at the termination of G street north; and for opening Sixth street through the public grounds.

THE CRIMINAL COURT YESTERDAY.—On the opening of the court yesterday morning, the hung jury in the riot case came in and reported their inability to agree, and were consequently discharged. It is said that they stood seven for conviction and five for acquittal. On disposing of this jury the court adjourned sine die, the next regular term commencing on the first Monday of December next. Consequently the riot cases, as well as all others pending, will have to lie over until that time.

ASKEW OF WASHINGTON.—It is related of Washington that when he was superintending the ceremonies of laying the corner-stone of the Capitol on the 18th of September, 1793, a physician present offered him the only umbrella in the company, to shield him from the rays of the sun. He declined the proffered courtesy, with the remark, "Take it to the ladies, Doctor; I have been exposed to the sun before in the course of my life."

THE HIGHEST GROUND IN THE CITY is the corner of N street north and 11th street west, being 103 feet above ordinary low tide. The next highest is the base of the National Observatory, being 96 feet. The eastern front of the Capitol is 89 feet; the corner of I street north and 13th street west, 82; and the foundation of St. John's church 65.

THE POSTAL PREPARATION LAW, it seems, is not yet universally understood. We see in the late Alexandria Sentinel a notice of four letters being detained in the post office of that city on account of the non-payment of postage. The probability is that a majority of said cases occur, not so much from a misapprehension of the law on the subject as from correspondents forgetting to put stamps on their letters.

GES. DANIEL S. LEE, of Missouri, late consul of the United States at Dusseldorf, in Switzerland, died in this city at half-past one o'clock on Saturday afternoon last, of tetanus, or lock-jaw, occasioned by a wound he had received in the foot by the accidental discharge of a pistol in his own hand.

THE SCHOLAR FISHING on the lower Potomac are now carried on to a considerable extent, and are said to be more lucrative to those engaged in them than were the spring fishing.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF GREENSBORO on Friday night last resolved to adjourn on next Friday night sine die. This would seem to indicate that a municipal election is close at hand in that city.

A NUFRANCE.—We have been requested to direct the attention of the Board of Health to the condition of the sewers, from which a strong effluvia is emitted, on the south side of Pennsylvania avenue, between Sixth and Seventh streets.

DEATH OF ANOTHER CLERK.—James B. Hunt, a first-class clerk in the General Land Office, died on Saturday evening last, having been in feeble health for several months past.

THE FOUNDATION ARCHES of the new custom-house and post office building in Alexandria are now completed, and the granite superstructure commenced.

DIED.

MR. S. A. ALLEN'S ZELOBAISMUM.—Mr. S. A. Allen, of New York, died on the 17th inst., of cholera, in the 70th year of his age. His funeral will take place to-day (Tuesday) at 4 o'clock, p. m., from his late residence, where the friends of the family are invited to attend.

ON THE 16th INST. ALICE, infant daughter of Thos. J. and Charlotte M. Fennan.

IT IS NOT A DYE.

Mrs. S. A. Allen's World's Hair Restorer. Gray hair, bald, or persons with diseases of hair, or scalp, read the following and judge of the article.

Mrs. S. A. Allen's ZELOBAISMUM. Or World's Hair Dressing, is essential to use with the Restorer, and is the best hair dressing for old or young extent, being often efficacious in cases of bald falling, &c., without the Restorer.

REV. H. V. WIGGINS, Editor of the Bostonian. "We can testify to its efficacy." **REV. J. E. KATON**, LL. B., Marlborough, Vt. "Notwithstanding its irregular use, the falling of my hair ceased, and my gray locks returned to original color." **REV. J. E. KATON**, LL. B., Marlborough, Vt. "Notwithstanding its irregular use, the falling of my hair ceased, and my gray locks returned to original color." **REV. J. E. KATON**, LL. B., Marlborough, Vt. "Notwithstanding its irregular use, the falling of my hair ceased, and my gray locks returned to original color."

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